

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF SOLAR POWERED
PUMP BASED ON A DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM
FOR SMALL SCALE AREAS USING
NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES**

By

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ABSTRACT

Israa Fathy Mohamed Eldehn: Performance Evaluation of Solar Powered Pump based on a Drip Irrigation System for Small Scale Areas Using Nuclear Techniques. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, 2016.

Field experiments had been carried out in 2015 (January - May) at the Experimental Farm of Soil and Water Research Department, Nuclear Research Center, Atomic Energy Authority, located at Inshas City, Sharkia Governorate, Egypt which represents sandy soil conditions.

This study aimed to evaluate the performance of the solar water pumping system 15 minutes period all day long from 8:00 a.m. to 16:00 p.m. through three normal days in 2015 (January - May). Solar water pumping system performance was evaluated. Its correlation with solar radiation intensity, module efficiency, pumping system efficiency and overall system efficiency was measured. Soil water movement under drip irrigation system was carried out using neutron scattering meter to determine soil moisture before irrigation, after irrigation, after one hour irrigation and after two hours irrigation.

System evaluation was made for the photovoltaic pumping system by estimating solar radiation intensity, output generated power from photovoltaic (PV) and hydraulic power. PV modules were used as a power generator which convert solar radiation into electricity directly to operate water pumping system and pump water through drip irrigation system. The PV system was installed to irrigate 288 m² with a monthly daily average hydraulic power of 184, 157 and 141 W with generated electric power 1055, 1021 and 1003 W at 12:00 p.m. in May, April and March at 1085, 1073 and 1065 W/m² solar radiation intensity, respectively. The results show that the maximum overall efficiency, pumping system efficiency and module efficiency of the PV pumping system were 3.93%, 26.28% and 14.97%

respectively at solar radiation intensity 1085 W/m^2 in May, 3.29%, 22.49% and 14.64% respectively at solar radiation intensity 1073 W/m^2 in April and 2.92%, 20.14% and 14.49% respectively at solar radiation intensity 1065 W/m^2 in March.

Keywords: Solar energy; Solar pumping system; PV module efficiency; PV module temperature; Pumping system; Neutron scattering meter.

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CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	IV
LIST OF FIGURES	V
LIST OF ABBRIVATION	VII
INTRODUCTION	1
REVEIW OF LITERTURE	3
2.1. Solar energy	3
2.2. Solar pumping system	4
2.3. Direct coupled PV pumping system	8
2.3.1. Power generator system	9
2.3.1.1. Photovoltaic elements	9
2.3.1.2. Types of photovoltaic cells	12
2.3.1.3. Photovoltaic module	13
2.3.1.4. Photovoltaic system components	13
2.3.1.4.1. Voltage and current output	13
2.3.1.4.2. Mounting structures	14
2.3.1.4.3. Energy storage	14
2.3.2. Pumping system	14
2.3.2.1. DC motor	15
2.3.2.2. Pump	15
2.4. PVP system performance evaluation	16
2.4.1. Solar radiation intensity	16
2.4.2. Input and output power	18
2.4.3. Module temperature effect on PV system output	19
2.4.4. Overall system efficiency	23
2.5. Neutron scattering technique	25
2.6. Water movement in soil	26
2.7. Cost analysis	28
MATERIALS AND METHODS	30
3.1. Experiment site	30
3.2. Main components of PVP	30

3.2.1. PV system	30
3.2.2. Pumping system	32
3.2.2.1. DC motor	34
3.2.2.2. Centrifugal pump	35
3.2.3. Irrigation system	35
3.2.3.1. Drip irrigation system	35
3.2.3.2. Emission uniformity	38
3.3. Measurement tools of PVP	38
3.3.1. PV system	38
3.3.1.1. Solar radiation	38
3.3.1.2. Module temperature	38
3.3.1.3. Current and voltage of PV	38
3.3.2. Measurement tools of pumping system	39
3.3.2.1. Motor speed	39
3.3.2.2. Pump discharge	39
3.3.2.3. Pump pressure	40
3.4. Soil studies	40
3.5. Soil moisture measurements	41
3.5.1. Soil surface layers	41
3.5.2. Soil subsurface layers	42
3.5.2.1. Neutron moisture meter	42
3.5.2.1.1. Neutron calibration curves	42
3.5.3. Soil water movement	44
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	45
4.1. Site solar radiation intensity measurements	45
4.2. PV generator performance	47
4.2.1. Generated electric power	47
4.2.2. Output current	49
4.2.3. Output voltage	51
4.2.4. Module temperature	52
4.2.5. Module efficiency	54
4.3. Electric power consumption	55

III

4.4. Hydraulic power	57
4.5. Pumping system efficiency	59
4.6. Overall efficiency	59
4.7. Water movement in soil	60
4.7.1. Direction of soil water movement between drippers	61
4.7.2. Direction of soil water movement between lines	63
4.8. Cost analysis	65
4.8.1. Diesel generator	66
4.8.2. PV generator	67
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	68
REFERENCES	70
ARABIC SUMMARY	

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page
1	PV module electrical data sheet (polycrystalline 240 W).	32
2	Some physical characteristics of the experimental soil.	41
3	Some chemical characteristics of soil under study.	41
4	Neutron calibration curves of the four soil depths under study.	43

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.		Page
1	The amount of solar energy in hours, received each day on an optimally tilted surface during the worst month of the year.	4
2	Direct coupled pumping systems.	5
3	PV based water pumping system.	7
4	Cross sectional view of a solar cell illustrating its working principle.	9
5	Images of Monocrystalline Wafer, cell and Module.	12
6	Images of Multicrystalline Wafer, cell and Module.	12
7	Input and output power circuit.	16
8	PV system characteristics versus the solar radiation at constant ambient temperature.	17
9	PV system characteristics versus the solar radiation during a normal day.	18
10	Time vs power input and output in PV cell.	19
11	Average module temperature.	20
12	The I–V curves of a PV module and a pump motor for two radiation levels and two temperatures showing the corresponding operating points.	21
13	Time v/s efficiencies.	24
14	Variation of global efficiency with solar radiation intensity from 1 to 31 March.	25
15	Photovoltaic system.	31
16	Pumping system.	33
17	DC motor.	34

VI

18	Centrifugal pump.	35
19	Drip irrigation system.	36
20	Drip irrigation system layout.	37
21	Measurement tools of PV.	39
22	Measurement tools of pumping system.	40
23	Neutron moisture meter.	42
24	Schematic diagram of irrigation system an access tubes positions around the emitter.	43
25	Inshas monthly daily average solar insolation for months January, February, March, April and May / 2015 as measured by pyranometer.	46
26	Inshas monthly daily hourly average solar insolation for months January, February, March, April and May / 2015 as measured by pyranometer.	47
27	Monthly daily average generated electric power for months January, February, March, April and May / 2015.	48
28	Monthly daily hourly average generated electric power for months January, February, March, April and May / 2015.	49
29	The measured average generated electric power as a function of average solar radiation intensity for certain days.	49
30	The measured average output current as a function of average solar radiation intensity for certain days.	50
31	The variation in radiation intensity (R_s) caused variation in the measured output current (I).	51

VII

32	The measured average output voltage as a function of average solar radiation intensity for certain days.	52
33	The variation in radiation intensity (Rs) caused variation in the measured output voltage (V).	52
34	Module temperature was measured as a function of time during test days starting 8:00 a.m. to 16:00 p.m. for months January, February, March, April and May / 2015.	54
35	Module efficiency average for months January, February, March, April and May / 2015 at different values of solar radiation intensity.	55
36	Monthly daily average electric power consumption for months from January, February, March, April and May / 2015.	56
37	Monthly daily hourly average generated electric power for months January, February, March, April and May / 2015.	57
38	Hydraulic power was measured at different times during test days starting 8:00 a.m. to 16:00 p.m. for months March, April and May / 2015.	58
39	Hydraulic power average for months March, April and May / 2015 at different values of solar radiation intensity.	58
40	Pumping system efficiency average for months March, April and May / 2015 at different values of solar radiation intensity.	59

VIII

41	Overall efficiency average for months March, April and May / 2015 at different values of solar radiation intensity.	60
42	Water movement in soil between drippers.	62
43	Water movement in soil between lines.	64

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
A	Ampere.
AC	Alternative current
A_{PV}	Photovoltaic array area, (m^2)
C_p	Temperature coefficient of maximum power
DC	Direct current
I_{mp}	Maximum point output current, (A)
I-V	Current and voltage characteristics for the PV array
η_{all}	Overall system efficiency, (%)
η_{PS}	Pumping system efficiency, (%)
η_{PV}	Module efficiency, (%)
P_h	Hydraulic power, (W)
P_i	Input power, (W)
P_{max}	Maximum rated power of PV module, (W)
P-N	Positive and negative junction
P_o	Output power of photovoltaic array, (W)
PV	Photovoltaic
PVGS	photovoltaic generation system
PVP	Photovoltaic pumping system
PVWP	Photovoltaic water pumping system
Q	Pump discharge, (m^3/hr)
R_s	Solar radiation intensity, (W/m^2)
STC	Standard test conditions
TH	Total head, (m)
T_m	Module temperature, ($^{\circ}C$)
V	Volt
V_{mp}	Maximum point output voltage, (V)
W_p	Watt peak electric power